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remained there eight or nine months, and no sheep died. And yet this was the country which Mr. Crawford and Mr. Wallace both said was unsuitable for sheep. Those gentlemen spoke from their experience of India and of the Eastern Archipelago; but they had forgotten the law of isothermal lines. They had forgotten that India was subtended by the ocean, which conveyed heat to lands in the latitude of Madras, while in the very same degree of latitude, south of the Equator, there were great tabular masses of land, which tempered the heat. We had in this physical fact the explanation why sheep and other animals could flourish in that latitude in Australia. The testimony of Australian gentlemen who had visited the country confirmed this fact. To return to the question of establishing a colony in North Australia, he would point out that at the mouth of the Victoria River there was the largest bay along the whole coast, capable of affording an anchorage for large fleets. He had already directed the attention of Government to the subject, for he certainly agreed with Sir Charles Nicholson and his Australian friends that it would be advisable to establish some sort of government there, inasmuch as numerous colonists would be flocking there, and, unless some authority were established, the results might be lamentable.

Ninth Meeting, March 23rd, 1863.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*The Rev. Thomas Scott, and H. D. Skine and A. H. Barford, Esqrs., were presented upon their Election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Captain Hugh Talbot Burgoyne, R.N., V.C.; Lieutenant the Hon. John Carnegie, R.N.; Lieutenant Charles James Forbes Smith; Rev. Richard Greaves; Rev. Henry F. Tozer, M.A.; Philip Anstruther; Christopher N. Bagot; George C. Brodrick; John Henry Challis; Edward Henry Leveaux; R. Jasper Moore; and Thomas Turner, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Vol. xxi. of the Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society; Ordnance Map of Montenegro; Map of the Isthmus of Kraw, presented by Mr. Wise; and the 12th Part of Philip's Atlas, &c., &c.

The PRESIDENT read a letter from Mr. W. Finke, of Adelaide, announcing that the colonists are fully alive to the importance of the discoveries made by Stuart. A private company had already been organised for the transport of stock (sheep, cattle, and horses) overland to the newly-discovered country on the north coast, in Van Diemen Gulf. The party will start in April, overland; and a vessel with supplies will be sent round to meet it on the north coast.

The PRESIDENT said that he had long advocated the desirableness of having some British settlement upon that great north coast of Australia—the only coast of that vast region upon which there was no British settlement. Although a great many years ago they had marked upon the map of the Society of Useful Knowledge the colony of “North Australia,” no such colony had ever been formed; but now these spirited colonists of South Australia had been induced, by the vivid and no doubt accurate descriptions of one of their own countrymen, to set out on this expedition to establish themselves there by sending a ship round, and also by sending overland cattle and stock. He had mentioned that circumstance because he was sure from what fell from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle at their last Anniversary, that as the British colonists showed so much vigour and desire to occupy that country, the British Government would ere long apply to it those laws and institutions under which British people were placed.

The President then proceeded to state that the first paper to be read was one by Major Goldsmid, entitled ‘A March from Kurráchi to Gwadur.’ That country had hardly ever been explored by Englishmen. It was, however, well known to the ancients in the time of Alexander the Great. Major Goldsmid had been deputed to examine that line of country with a view of establishing the electric telegraph. It was the last link of communication of that great line, to the overland portions of which Sir Henry Rawlinson had called their attention at the last meeting of the session of 1861, when he pointed out the great importance of such a line from Constantinople to the British settlements in India. Major Goldsmid, in reading his paper, would allude to some curious archæological data connected with that country, and point out how much was known of it in times somewhat remote. Colonel Patrick Stuart, under whose direction the whole of that great and important line of electric telegraphic communication had been carried out, was present, and they should be very happy to hear some account of it from an officer who was so much distinguished in India, and of such immense service during the mutiny, in which he, in fact, subverted all the great purposes of their commanders, and without whose aid their successes might never have been obtained. Having also Sir Henry Rawlinson present, they would have such a discussion on the paper as would show its great importance.

The Papers read were—

1. *Exploration from Kurráchi to Gwadur, along the Mekran Coast.* By Major F. GOLDSMID, F.R.G.S.

THE Expedition, of which the following is a report, was sent to survey a route near the coast of Mekran, from Kurráchi to Gwadur, with a view to a line of telegraph to be thence carried on through the territory of the Imám of Muskat, and finally either through Persia or by the valley of the Tigris to Constantinople and Europe. The journey was made between December 12, 1861, and January 29, 1862.

The country bordering on this coast, and included between 62° and 67° E. long., may aptly be described as a bare and cheerless desert, occasionally intersected by low hills, with a scanty and purely periodic supply of water.